

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS

TREASURY

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

USDEL JEC PARIS

INFO USSAGE NAKHON PHANOM

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

COGARD

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST BY POUCH

XMT AMEMBASSY SUVA

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, XC, US

SUBJECT: FEBRUARY 26 EA PRESS SUMMARY

1. INDOCHINA

PRES AND SECSTATE SAY CAMBODIA WILL FALL SHORTLY WITHOUT

NEW US AID (UPI, CHITRIB). IN LETTER TO HOUSE SPEAKER

ALBERT TUESDAY, PRES STATED GKR "WILL BE FORCED, WITHIN

WEEKS, TO SURRENDER" IF CONGRESS DOES NOT APPROVE EXTRA

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222 MILLION IN MIL AID. ASSESSMENT LATER REPEATED BY

HAK, WHO TOLD NEWS CONFERENCE CAMBODIA ABOUT TO RUN OUT OF AMMO. SECSTATE ADDED THAT SVN CAN'T SURVIVE WITHOUT LONG-RANGE AID (WSJ). NYT CARRIES TEXT OF PRES' LETTER TO ALBERT EXPRESSING CONCERN OVER CRITICAL SITUATION IN CAMBODIA, DESCRIBING ECON PLIGHT, NOTING GKR HAS DEMONSTRATED WILLINGNESS TO NEGOTIATE, AND ASKING "MORAL QUESTION THAT MUST BE FACED SQUARELY. ARE WE TO DELIBERATELY ABANDON A SMALL COUNTRY IN THE MIDST OF ITS LIFE AND DEATH STRUGGLE?" LETTER URGED RAPID AND FAVORABLE ACTION ON REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL GKR AID.

NYDN'S CARTER SUMMARIZES PRES' LETTER AND HAK CONFERENCE, NOTES GENERAL FEELING IN WASHINGTON THAT LITTLE CHANCE CONGRESS WILL PROVIDE MONEY. QUOTES OFFICIAL ASSOCIATED

WITH US POLICY TOWARD GKR THAT CAMBODIANS BITTER AND DISHEARTENED, AND WITHOUT FAST US AID HARDLY ANY CHANCE GKR WILL SURVIVE. IN CONFERENCE, HAK CONCEDED MOST AMERICANS TIRED OF VN AND MANY WANT TO WASH HANDS OF WAR THERE; BUT PREDICTED SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES FOR CONDUCT OF OUR FOREIGN POLICY IF SVN FALLS AS RESULT OF US DECISION TO CUT OFF AID. CSM'S SPERLING QUOTES HAK ACKNOWLEDGEMENT, IN APPARENT REFERENCE TO ISRAELI ARMS REQUESTS, THAT CONGRESSIONAL QUESTIONS ABOUT US AID "COULD BE APPLIED TO ANY COUNTRY." NOTES HAK ADDED THAT ENTIRE ISSUE OF CONGRESSIONAL ATTITUDE "NO TRIVIAL MATTER."

MCCARTNEY (GLOBE, PHINQ) SEES PRES' AND HAK'S STATEMENTS, WITH SIMILARLY BLEAK ASSESSMENTS FROM OTHER TOP OFFICIALS, MAKING CLEAR ADMIN HAS LAUNCHED GO-FOR-BROKE CAMPAIGN TO DRAMATIZE STANCE ON CAMBODIA SHOULD IT FALL. NOTES SEVERAL DEMOCRATIC CONGRESSMEN HAVE CHARGED ADMIN ATTEMPTING FOCUS BLAME ON CONGRESS FOR EVENTS IN INDOCHINA, "WHICH THEY CONSIDER LARGELY BEYOND CONTROL." QUOTES HIGH-RANKING HOUSE LEADER THAT, "I DON'T THINK WE CAN RALLY THE VOTES. I THINK CAMBODIA WILL HAVE TO GO." NOTES HAK DREW LINE BETWEEN CAMBODIA SITUATION, THAT HE DESCRIBED AS "IMMINENTLY CRITICAL," AND THAT IN VN, WHERE WE FACE "MORE LONG-TERM SITUATION OF THE SAME ORDER."

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WP'S MARDER INTERPRETS PRES' LETTER AND HAK'S CONFERENCE AS ESCALATION OF WARNINGS THAT CONGRESS ALONE WILL BE RESPONSIBLE IF GKR COLLAPSES. NOTES INTENSIFIED WARNINGS CLIMAX SERIES OF ADMIN STATEMENTS THAT STARTED SUNDAY, AND COME IN FACE OF HUGE CONGRESSIONAL OPPOSITION TO SUPPLEMENTAL. SUN'S MILLS AND NYT'S GWERTZMAN REPORT ON PRES' LETTER AND HAK'S CONFERENCE; LATTER

SEES IN HAK STATEMENTS DESPERATE ADMIN EFFORT TO PERSUADE RELUCTANT CONGRESS COME TO GKR SUPPORT; BELIEVES SECSTATE SEEMED TO SAY SVN IN BETTER POSITION THAN CAMBODIA TO SAVE SELF. NOTES THAT IN REPLY TO QUESTION CONCERNING PRES' SUGGESTION OF 3-YR CUTOFF, HAK SAID WOULD PREFER NO DEFINITE CUTOFF ON AID TO SVN, BUT 3-YR LIMIT ACCEPTABLE FALL-BACK POSITION.

WP REPORTS SIX HOUSE MEMBERS DEPARTED ON FACT-FINDING TRIP TO VN: FLYNT, ABZUG, FRASER, CHAPPELL, MURTHA, AND FENWICK; DUE BACK MONDAY. NOTES HARKIN DROPPED OUT, SAYING WOULD HAVE BEEN "EFFORT IN FUTILITY" VIEWING ONLY WHAT GVN WANTED TO DISPLAY. SUN'S ISAACS BELIEVES US TEAM LIKELY TO FACE "ROSY" VN BRIEFING BY AMB MARTIN (IN FEB 25 USIA WIRELESS FILE).

MCCLOSKEY AND BARTLETT VISIT DELTA COMMAND HQ, WILL BE JOINED LATER BY SIX-MEMBER CODEL (AP SUN, WP).

US GATHERS RICE IN SVN FOR AIRLIFT TO PP. EMBASSY SOURCES SAID COMMERCIAL JETS WOULD MAKE 15 FLIGHTS DAILY, BRINGING IN 583 TONS, FOR 30-DAY PERIOD. US SOURCES IN PP SAY CITY WOULD BE DOWN TO LESS THAN WEEK'S RICE SUPPLY WHEN AIRLIFT STARTS ON THURSDAY AND GKR FEARED FOOD RIOTS (UPI BALTO N-A 2/25, CHITRIB, GLOBE; PHINQ). MARKHAM (NYT) IN SAIGON WRITES OF NEW RICE AND FUEL AIRLIFT (IN FEB 26 USIA WIRELESS FILE).

SCHANBERG (NYT) FROM PP DESCRIBES CHILDREN STARVING IN ONCE-LUSH LAND, TELLS OF WORK OF VOLAGS IN CRISIS (EXCERPTED IN FEB 26 USIA WIRELESS FILE). CSM'S SOUTHERLAND IN PP REPORTS CURIOUS SURFACE "NORMALITY" UNCLASSIFIED

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IN PP THAT GIVES IMPRESSION CITY IS GOING ABOUT BUSINESS DESPITE WAR. NOTES FIGHTING ALL AROUND; REPEATS STORY CONSIDERABLE QUANTITIES OF FOOD GET THROUGH REBEL "NOOSE," BUT PRICES OF MANY ITEMS BEYOND REACH OF AVERAGE CITIZEN. MANY SCHOOLS STILL OPEN, CINEMAS OPERATE, AND "ASTONISHING" NUMBER OF VEHICLES RUN DESPITE FUEL SHORTAGE. TELLS OF FEAR OF AND DAMAGE BY ROCKETS. CONCLUDES KHMERS HAVE WAY OF SUFFERING SILENTLY, AND NOTES STRANGE CULTS HAVE ARISEN TO OFFER PEOPLE SOLACE AND PROTECTION. WP FRONT-PAGES AP PHOTO OF PP RESIDENT CARRYING TO HOSPITAL CHILD WOUNDED IN ROCKET ATTACK.

FORMER ROYAL CAPITAL OF OUDONG TAKEN BY REBELS.

MIL SOURCES SAY TOWN ABANDONED BY FANK DESPITE ORDERS TO HOLD OUT AT ANY COST. OUDONG GOVERNOR DIED AT COMMAND POST; TROOPS FALL BACK TO LONG VEK, 21 MILES NW OF PP (UPI, S-N; AP, WP; REUTER, NYT).

REBELS STEP-UP ROCKETING OF PP AND POCHENTONG, AND MAKE HEAVY ASSAULTS ON PP DEFENSE PERIMETER (UPI CHITRIB, GLOBE; AP WP, SUN). NEAK LUONG CONTINUED UNDER HEAVY ENEMY FIRE (AP WP, SUN; UPI, BALTO N-A 2/25).

2. CHINA

JOC'S DRIEBERG, IN NEW DELHI, SAYS PRC IS LIKELY TO BE REPRESENTED BY LARGE DELEGATION AT 10-DAY ESCAP CONFERENCE; WILL BE CHINA'S FIRST ATTENDANCE AT ANY

MAJOR UN WORLD CONFERENCE ON INDIAN SOIL SINCE TWO COUNTRIES WARRED IN 1962.

CHOU EN-LAI WRITES VENEZUELA PRES INVITATION TO VISIT PEKING, ACCORDING GOV FOREIGN MINISTER (UPI, WP).

3. JAPAN

JOC'S CULLISON IN TOKYO REPORTS DOLLAR SAGS TO NINE-UNCLASSIFIED

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MONTH LOW OF 285 YEN, WITH MASSIVE SUPPORT BUYING BY BANK OF JAPAN. CITES ANALYSTS THAT DECLINE LINKED TO SHARP FALL IN EUROPEAN MARKETS, AND EXPORTERS RUSH TO CONVERT DOLLARS, IMPORTERS DELAY SETTLEMENTS. CULLISON ALSO CITES JETRO, THAT JAPAN-PRC TRADE ROSE 63.4 PERCENT LAST YEAR, TO 3.3 BILLION DOLS, EXCEEDING FOR FIRST TIME JAPAN-TAIWAN TRADE OF 2.9 BILLION DOLS; PRC NOW JAPAN'S EIGHTH BIGGEST TRADING PARTNER. MITI SETS FIRST MONTHLY MEETING THURSDAY WITH 11 ARAB COMMERCIAL ATTACHES AND ARAB LEAGUE REP IN TOKYO, TO PROMOTE TRADE, ECON COOPERATION (JOC).

O'SEAS RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT CO AGREES TO EXPLORE, EXPLOIT URANIUM DEPOSITS IN NIGER, IN JOINT VENTURE WITH GOVT AND FRANCE'S CEA; SPOKESMAN SAYS WORK BEGINS THIS AUTUMN, BUT FINANCIAL, OPERATIONS AGREEMENT REMAINS BE SIGNED (JOC).

MOODY'S, STANDARD AND POOR'S GIVE JAPAN DEVELOPMENT BANK COVETED TRIPLE-A CREDIT RATING ON 50 MILLION FIVE-YEAR NOTE OFFERING IN US, ABOUT MARCH 19 (WSJ).

MAYOR YAMADA ANNOUNCES FIRST HIROSHIMA INTL AMATEUR FILM FESTIVAL TO BE HELD AUGUST; 20 MIN ENTRIES SHOULD "MANIFEST EFFORTS FOR PEACE", REVERENCE FOR LIFE (NYT).

PHINQ RUNS UPI PHOTO OF ANNUAL "MUDDY NAKED FESTIVAL," IN CHIBA.

4. KOREA

UPI (SEOUL) NOTES DEATH OF SUNG KON KIM TUESDAY, CHAIRMAN SK COC, ORIENT PRESS OWNER.

5. AUSTRALIA

GOA STARTS INTL WOMEN'S YEAR WITH DECISION TO NAME CYCLONES, TYPHOONS AFTER MEN AS WELL AS WOMEN; LEADING

WOMEN'S LIB SPOKESPERSON CALLS MOVE "GESTURE" THAT UNCLASSIFIED

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DOES LITTLE TO ADVANCE CAUSE OF WOMEN (PHINQ, GLOBE).

JOC (NEW DELHI) DESCRIBES SHEEP STATION AT HISSAR, BUILT BY GOA GRANT UNDER COLOMBO PLAN, TO UPGRADE POTENTIALLY BIG SHEEP INDUSTRY; PLAN TO CROSS THICK-WOOLED AUSSIE CORRIEDALE RAMS WITH INDIAN EWES, TO INCREASE MEAT, WOOL OUTPUT.

6. PHILIPPINES

TWO ARMED MEN HIGHJACKED PAL DC-3 IN SOUTH TUES, SURRENDERED IN MANILA IN MISTAKEN BELIEF THEY GOT PARDON DEMANDED OF MARCOS FOR HIGHJACKING, PAST CRIMES. PASSENGERS, CREW RELEASED UNHARMED (CHITRIB; UPI, PHINQ). AFTER HIJACKING PLANE, RELEASED 11 OF 26 OTHER PASSENGERS AT CEBU (UPI BALTO N-A 2/25).

7. HONG KONG

JOC'S STRAUSS IN HK CITES COLONIAL SECRETARIAT DOCUMENT, THAT SAYS GNP GROWTH RATE FELL 11 PERCENT LAST YEAR, DUE TO WORLD SLUMP; STRESSES GOVT OPPOSES DEVALUATION OF OVERLY STRONG HK DOLLAR, EVEN THOUGH LEADS TO "SOME EROSION OF HONG KONG'S COMPETITIVE POSITION."

FORMER POLICE SUPERINTENDANT PETER GODBER CONVICTED ON TWO COUNTS OF BRIBERY, CORRUPTION TUESDAY;

SENTENCED TO PRISON FOUR YEARS, ORDERED REPAY 5,000 DOLLAR BRIBE TAKEN FROM FELLOW OFFICER SEEKING PROMOTION IN 1971 (UPI, NYDN). REVELATIONS OF WIDESPREAD CORRUPTION IN BRITISH-STAFFED POLICE HAVE INFLAMED PASSIONS IN HK, WHERE 98 PERCENT OF POPULATION CHINESE (NYT).

8. GENERAL

JOC INTERVIEWS SEATTLE TRADE DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR ROBERT EDWARDS (2/24), QUOTES HIM AS "PRETTY OPTIMISTIC" TRADE WITH HK, TAIWAN, MALAYSIA, UNCLASSIFIED

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SINGAPORE TO REMAIN STRONG THIS YEAR; ECONOMIC SQUEEZE ON JAPAN "SOMEWHAT PINCHES" CARGO THERE BUT SHIPPING FIRMS PREDICT "FULL FLEDGED RECOVERY" ON WESTBOUND CARGO BY LATE SUMMER, OR FALL. EDWARDS EXPECTS "BIG UNKNOWN" CHINA TO EMERGE "AWFULLY SLOW."

COMMENT AND ANALYSIS

9. INDOCHINA

NYT EDIT SAYS US/SVN INCURSION INTO CAMBODIA CAUSE OF PRESENT GRIEF. NO REAL COMMITMENTS BY US INVOLVED. NO PROSPECTS FOR GENUINE PEACE AHEAD. US POLICY MISGUIDED MILITARY ADVENTURE. NO STALEMATE, IF ACHIEVED, CAN REDEEM THIS BLUNDER (SEE WIRELESS FILE).

BRADSHER (STAR) POINTS TO SIGNS OF DESPERATION IN US INDOCHINA POLICY (SEE WIRELESS FILE).

HERBLOCK (POST) SHOWS CAMBODIA SHIP OF STATE SINKING ON ROCKS OF NIXON-HAK-FORD WAR. CREW MEMBERS LON NOL, FORD AND HAK WITH SMALL BUCKET SAYING TO CONGRESS "IF YOU DON'T BAIL IT OUT, YOU'LL BE TO BLAME FOR LETTING IT GO DOWN".

CSM EDIT SAYS ON HUMANITARIAN GROUNDS ALONE NEW AIRLIFT SHOULD BE SUPPORTED. OPENING RIVER LONGER TERM SOLUTION TO HUNGER PROBLEM. HARD TO BELIEVE CONGRESS WOULD NOT APPROPRIATE SOME OF REQUESTED AID. US HAS RESPONSIBILITY TO CAMB. FOR DRAGGING IT INTO WAR IT DID NOT WANT. SUPPORTS HANOI'S VIEW IT IS NOT FOR US TO MAKE SURRENDER DECISION FOR CAMBODIA (BY NOT PROVIDING ADDED AID).

BRADSHER IN STAR (2/25) DISCUSSES HABIB TESTIMONY

BEFORE HUMPHREY SUBCOMMITTEE WITH EMPHASIS ON
SENATORIAL QUESTIONING EXTENT TO WHICH AID, IN
ITSELF, REPRESENTS ADDITIONAL COMMITMENT.

10. CHINA
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CSM'S WOHL SUGGESTS NEW DEVELOPMENTS POSSIBLY MAY
BE FORTHCOMING IN SINO-SOVIET BORDER ISSUE. NOTES
THREE DAYS BEFORE ILICHEV'S SURPRISE RETURN TO PEKING
FOR RENEWAL OF BORDER TALKS, MYSTERIOUS SOVIET
JOURNALIST VICTOR LOUIS, GENERALLY BELIEVED TO HAVE
SPECIAL KGB CONNECTIONS, VISITED LONDON PUBLISHER
WITH THICK MANUSCRIPT ON SINO-SOVIET BORDER ROW.
WOHL SUGGESTS BOOK MAY CONTAIN NEW CLUES TO SOVIET
INTENTIONS IN FAR EAST.

LAT'S ELEGANT, IN HK, SEES "WORLD'S LONGEST-RUNNING
POLITICAL CHARADE -- SINO-SOVIET DISCUSSIONS OF THEIR
BORDER DISPUTES" -- BEING "PLAYED ONCE MORE AFTER A
6-MONTH INTERMISSION." FROM WAY THEY'RE OUTSIDE

CONFERENCE CHAMBER, NEITHER SIDE HAS ANY EXPECTATION
OF REACHING AGREEMENT. ACTUALLY NEITHER SEEMS
WANT SETTLEMENT OF "COMPARATIVELY SIMPLE SUBSTANTIVE
ISSUES UNDER DISCUSSION," PARTLY BECAUSE IMPLICATIONS OF ANY
CONCRETE SETTLEMENT OF MINOR ISSUE COULD BE BROAD.
SEVERAL OTHER REASONS ALSO MAKE THEM LESS THAN EAGER
TO REACH AGREEMENT: BOTH WANT TO KEEP TALKING, PRIMARILY
BECAUSE OF IMPACT ON THIRD PARTIES; THEY ARE CONCERNED
AT LEAST AS MUCH WITH EFFECT ON US, JAPAN, WE IN THAT
ORDER, AS WITH EACH OTHER. IN EFFECT, SOVIET AND CHINA
ARE WARNING EVERYONE ELSE: "WE COULD MAKE A DEAL -- IF
WE WANTED TO. WE COULD BECOME A UNITED FORCE IN
INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS AGAIN."

ANTICIPATING FORD VISIT, PEKING IS PARTICULARLY HAPPY
TO APPLY INDIRECT PRESSURE TO US THROUGH SINO-SOVIET
BORDER NEGOTIATIONS, IN QUEST FOR ECONOMIC CONCESSIONS
FROM US AND "NORMALIZATION" OF SINO-US RELATIONS
PUSHING TAIWAN EVEN FURTHER INTO COLD. MOSCOW, TOO,
DESIRES IMPRESS US WITH THREAT OF RAPPROCHEMENT WITH
PRC TO WIN ECONOMIC CONCESSIONS. THEY ALSO DESIRE
WOO JAPAN, BECAUSE THEY FEAR INCREASING SINO-JAPANESE
WARMTH COULD LEAVE SOVIETS OUT IN FAR EAST COLD. IN
LONG RUN, MODIFIED PEKING-TOKYO COMMART IS BY NO
MEANS IMPOSSIBLE, AND SOVIETS SHUDDER AT PROSPECT
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(FEB 23).

MICHIGAN U'S PROF OKSENBERG CITES BROAD THEMES EMERGING FROM RECENT PRC EVENTS, INCLUDING NPC: CHINA'S LEADERS ARE MAKING GRADUAL PROGRESS ON RESTRUCTURING INSTITUTIONS DAMAGED DURING GPCR AND LIN PIAO AFFAIR AND IN DEVELOPING INTERIM ARRANGEMENTS FOR EVENTUAL SUCCESSION OF MAO AND CHOU; BUT INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS HAVE COMPLICATED CHINA'S PROBLEMS, AND CURRENT GLOBAL UNCERTAINTY HAS PROMPTED CHINESE OFFICIALS, DIVIDED OVER SEVERAL ISSUES, TO REAPPRAISE CERTAIN POLICIES UNDERTAKEN IN 1971-73.

OKSENBERG NOTES VERY LITTLE KNOWN ABOUT POWER, VIEWPOINTS, ALLIES OF PARTICULAR CHINESE LEADERS, WHO CLOAK THEIR MANEUVERS NOT SO MUCH TO CONFUSE OUTSIDE WORLD AS TO HIDE STRATEGIES FROM RIVALS. FOR US, MAJOR SIGNIFICANCE OF NPC IS THAT THORNY QUESTION OF TAIWAN, ON WHICH FUTURE OF SINO-US RELATIONS DEPENDS, HAS NOW COME TO FORE (LAT FEB 23).

ELEGANT (FEB 23) DOES TENG HSIAO-PING PROFILE; FINDS HIS LONG-STANDING CREDENTIALS AS PARTY DIPLOMAT 'IMPECCABLE.'

TORONTO GLOBE AND MAIL'S BURNS, IN PEKING, SAYS LATEST DEVELOPMENT IN PEKING FASHION IS RETURN OF WOMEN'S DRESSES. SAMPLING OPINION, BURNS FINDS MOST FAVORING PROSPECT OF GETTING WOMEN OUT OF BAGGY TROUSERS AND LOOSE-FITTING BLOUSES (WP).

11. KOREA

MICHAEL DREHER (AFTER YEAR WITH SWISS DELEGATION TO NNSC) WRITES FROM PANMUNJON (PHILA BULLETIN 2/16) THAT PEACE HAS YET TO REPLACE TRUCE IN KOREA. AMERICANS MEET NKOREANS BRIEFLY ALMOST EVERY DAY, AND MAC MEETS EVERY MONTH OR TWO TO ENFORCE 1953 ARMISTICE. LANGUAGE, AT LEAST, MORE CIVILIZED OVER PAST TEN YEARS IN MEETINGS WHICH MOSTLY PRO-PAGANDA SESSIONS AND LEAD ONLY TO FRUSTRATION, BUT

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TALKING STILL BETTER THAN SHOOTING.

NOTES DPRK REBUILT SELF SINCE TRUCE WITH HELP FROM

COMMUNISTS, CHIEFLY CZECHOSLOVAKIA, AND "DEVELOPED AN EFFECTIVE PROPAGANDA APPARATUS TO DRUM UP POPULAR SUPPORT FOR KIM IL SUNG'S DICTATORSHIP," WHILE ROK, BACKED BY US MIL, ECON AID, BUILT SYSTEM "WITH SOME-WHAT MORE PERSONAL AND ECONOMIC FREEDOM" BUT "MORE VISIBLE SIGNS OF POLITICAL REPRESSION AND STRIFE." MEANWHILE, LOW LEVEL, DIRECT TALKS BY BOTH KOREAS, AIMED AT UNIFICATION, GET NOWHERE.

GLOBE'S STORIN IN TOKYO BELIEVES SEN CULVER (IOWA) SPOKE FOR MANY WHEN HE MADE POINT, ON VN SUPPLEMENTAL, THAT WAR TOOK MIGHTY TOLL OF "NATIONAL WILL," AND SOVIET NOT "FOOLED INTO THINKING" US WOULD GO TO WAR, SHORT OF ATTACK ON US ITSELF. FINDS IMPORTANT APPLICATION IN KOREA, WHERE US FORCES, UNDER COMMITMENT TO SK GOVT, REMAIN DEPLOYED AGAINST NK ARMIES -- AND PRECISE ESTIMATE OF DANGER OF WAR DIFFICULT TO MAKE AT GIVEN MOMENT. BESIDES, KOREA NOT EXACTLY "TOPIC NO. 1" ON AMERICAN MINDS.

CITES WESTERN AMB IN SEOUL (NOT US) WHO TOLD NEWSMAN OTHER DAY HE DOES NOT CONSIDER "IMPLAUSIBLE" NK PREEMPTIVE ATTACK TO CAPTURE SEOUL, AND THEN CALL ON UN TO MEDIATE. NOTES SECDEF POSTURE STATEMENT REPEATED OFFICIAL VIEW US TROOP WITHDRAWAL "MIGHT INVITE" KIM IL SUNG INTO "IMPRUDENT" ADVENTURES. BUT ALL THAT FIREPOWER DIDN'T INHIBIT NK SEIZURE OF PUEBLO, AND IF CULVER CORRECT, IDEA OF FORCING US INTO EMBARRASSING WITHDRAWAL FROM SK COULD BECOME "DANGEROUS TEMPTATION"

TO NK. AGREES RADICAL WITHDRAWAL WOULD DISRUPT SK INTERNAL POLITICAL SITUATION, BUT STORIN CONCLUDES DOS AND DOD MUST THINK ABOUT BRINGING KOREAN POLICY INTO LINE WITH REALITIES OF US PUBLIC OPINION, NO MATTER HOW JARRING TO LINGERING COLD WAR PHILOSOPHIES.

12. JAPAN

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HEARST'S CONSIDINE (BALTO N-A 2/25) RE-READS AUG 15 1945 EDITION OF NYDN WITH SOME COMFORT, TODAY'S NEWS "BEING WHAT IS." CITES STORIES ABOUT V-J DAY, PRES TRUMAN, GEN MACARTHUR, RETURN TO PEACETIME ECONOMY. STATES WORD FROM TOKYO, 30 YEARS LATER, IS JAPAN GIVES UP AGAIN -- ON DOLLAR, AND WE WILL ALL WELCOME EMPEROR WHO REMAINED ON THRONE UNDER SCAP WHEN HE BECOMES FIRST OF HIS ANCIENT DYNASTY TO VISIT MAINLAND AMERICA.

13. GENERAL/THAILAND

ANDERSON AND WHITTEN (WP) REPORT CIA TRAINED ELITE
UNITS THAT GUARD "FAVORED FOREIGN MONARCHS, PREMIERS,
AND DICTATORS" IN SEVERAL COUNTRIES, INCLUDING LAOS,
INDONESIA, SK, SVN AND THAILAND. THIS HAS GIVEN
CONTACTS CLOSE TO SEAT OF POWER; IN PROCESS CIA QUIETLY
DEVELOPED SOME BODYGUARDS INTO INFORMANTS AND USED
OTHERS TO INFLUENCE PALACE POLICY-MAKING. CALL THAILAND
TYPICAL, WHERE 60-MAN PROTECTIVE FORCE IS HEADED
BY "TRUSTED CIA TRAINEE," LT GEN VITOON YASAWAD, WHO
LED THAI IRREGULARS IN LAOS UNTIL C-F. YASAWAD
ACKNOWLEDGED EXISTENCE OF SPECIAL UNIT BUT DENIED CIA
CONNECTION WITH IT. ANDERSON AND WHITTEN SAY MEMBERS
TRAINED AT KORAT, "CIA SUB-CENTER" DURING VN WAR AND
STILL "MAJOR INTELLIGENCE OUTPOST." TELL OF OTHER CIA
EXPLOITS IN THAILAND INVOLVING HIGH GOVT OFFICIAL WHO SOUGHT
SANCUTARY, AND ATTEMPTED COUP AGAINST FORMER PM
SIRIT THANARAT. KISSINGER

NOTE BY OC/T: POUCHED BUDAPEST.

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